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INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ACQUISITION
OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

Minutes

Meeting of 14 March 1944

PRESENT:

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C., § 793 and § 794, the transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

Department of Agriculture
Department of State
Department of Commerce
Foreign Economic Administration
Office of War Information
Library of Congress
War Department
Navy Department
Treasury Department
Office of Strategic Services
Interdepartmental Committee

Executive Secretary

Mr. Shaw
Dr. Spaulding
Mr. Domeratsky
Miss Gunthner
Dr. Krould
Mr. Moriarty
Col. Hale
Comm. Riheldaffer
Mr. Southworth
Dr. Read
Sgt. Clift
Miss Reynolds
Miss Kodadek
Ensign Kilgour

Ensign Kilgour presided.

The minutes of the meeting of 29 February were approved as distributed.

Miss Reynolds distributed the most recent book list for members to indicate their needs of photostat copies.

Ensign Kilgour suggested that the microfilming now being done at the State Department by Miss Montgomery be discontinued since the use of this film does not justify the service. Mr. Shaw felt that the material which has heretofore been filmed should be listed and such lists distributed by IDC. Dr. Spaulding agreed that the State Department might be able to establish a system of furnishing acquisitions lists of this material to IDC. Mr. Shaw moved "that the matter be referred to Dr. Spaulding and Ensign Kilgour with the power to take such action as the situation seems to demand." The motion was seconded and all present were in favor.

Ensign Kilgour asked for the opinion of Committee members in connection with the possibility of UNRRA, a non-government agency, receiving IDC service -- if such service should be requested by UNRRA. The matter was discussed and it was agreed that it should rest until such time as UNRRA made any definite requests of the Committee.

The members agreed on Friday as a new day for future Committee meetings.

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Ensign Kilgour asked Mr. Spaulding and Colonel Hale for their reports with regard to the possibilities of sending an IDC representative into North China and the methods to be employed in this connection. Mr. Spaulding advised that the State Department is interested in the large problem of opening up this area but that State Department channels do not appear to be useful at present. Colonel Hale said that operations of a confidential nature may be under way. He suggested that the Committee suspend action for the present since any communication through the Joint Chiefs of Staff would only parallel the preliminary thought and action which has already been taken by the Army. Ensign Kilgour felt that an IDC man in uniform could be ready when and if a mission were established to go into the North China Area. Members agreed that no formal request should be submitted at this time.

Miss Guntner asked if any method could be employed for speeding up microfilm service. Ensign Kilgour advised that London had been cabled instructions to concentrate on recent publication dates and hold off filming of older dates.

Colonel Hale inquired about the possibilities of obtaining more Balkan publications. Ensign Kilgour said that an OSS representative in Turkey is beginning to get some originals, that the pouch service from Turkey is not very expeditious, but that film-processing time will be cut down by receipt of originals. Since the OSS Representative appears to be able to collect and transmit more publications than Mr. Thomas, he is being requested to take over IDC Representation in Turkey.

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